

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6518S
Date of Senate Approval 04/05/18

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 58 (ENVR): Revise the requirements for the Environmental Management and Policy Concentration

Effective Date: Fall 2018

1. Delete: On page 156, under **Concentration in Environmental Management and Policy:**

At least 33 hours distributed as follows: ENVR 332, 334; 9 additional hours in ENVR, with at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level; ECON 101, 102, 337, 345; 6 additional hours of environmental policy and management-relevant coursework as approved by the department advisor.

Add: On page 156, in place of deleted entry:

At least 31 hours distributed as follows: ECON 102 and either 337 or 345; ENVR 332, 334; 6 hours chosen from ENVR 234, 324, 333, 360, 365, 383, 391; 7 hours at the 300-400 level, with at least 4 hours chosen from ENVR 302, both 322 and 323, 338, 341, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, 351, 358, 362, 384, 385, 390, 396; and 6 hours of environmental policy and management-relevant coursework, with at least 3 hours at the 300-400 level. The courses approved for this requirement are listed on the department's website. They may not be double-counted to meet other requirements for the Environmental Management and Policy concentration.

Impact statement: Students will likely take fewer ECON courses. The proposed curriculum reduces the number of ECON courses students are required to take by 6 hours. However, students (particularly those choosing to minor in ECON) will be able to take 6 additional hours in ECON for the EMP-Related electives, if they choose.

The proposed curriculum reduces the minimum number of hours required for the EMP concentration from 30 to 28 hours (see the attached side-by-side table for specifics), giving students 2 hours to use for other purposes, which supports our liberal arts mission. Although students will have slightly less flexibility in electives for the EMP concentration, they will still be able to choose from a wide array of courses across several departments.

The proposed curriculum (department core + EMP concentration) requires 32 hours of ENVR courses, compared with 28-34 hours currently required. No proposed changes will change the frequency with which any ENVR course needs to be taught, our staffing needs, or the time required for students to graduate.

Rationale: Students graduating with a concentration in EMP pursue a variety of career paths including policy-making, environmental law, environmental nonprofit work, work in government agencies, and as environmental managers. Given these varied interests, we have relied on flexibility in the EMP concentration, along with informed advising, to ensure students have opportunities to tailor their education to their interests. In recent years, as new faculty have joined our department and national emphasis on STEM training has increased, we have come to the consensus that we need to provide

additional guidance in the electives students choose, to ensure they are well-prepared as environmental managers and policy-makers in a changing world.

Our learning outcomes for EMP students (who receive a B.S. degree) include a solid understanding of the scientific, economic, political, and social complexities of contemporary environmental management challenges. For the past 18 years, we have advised EMP students to take lab-, field- and lecture courses with strong natural science underpinnings. The proposed changes formalize our commitment to the natural science component of the EMP concentration while increasing breadth in relevant social science areas. Included in the proposed changes is a requirement for at least one advanced lab- or field- based course. This addition will strengthen the EMP curriculum by ensuring all graduates are equipped with appropriate applied science skills to be marketable in their field.

Our proposed curriculum differs in these four ways from the current curriculum (see the attached side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed curricula):

1. *Change from 6 hours of any advanced ENVR electives to 6 hours selected from a specified list of ENVR options.* Requiring students to take courses particularly relevant to EMP will bring more structure to the concentration. The designated courses provide training and background in topics important to environmental managers and policy-makers, such as energy, environmental restoration, environmental ethics, sustainability, and conservation biology.
2. *Change from any 3 hours of ENVR electives to 7 hours of advanced ENVR electives (including one lab- or field- based course selected from a list of options).* This will ensure all EMP students take at least one advanced lab- or field-based course that will give them appropriate applied science skills.
3. *Change from 12 hours of ECON (four courses) to 6 hours of ECON (two courses).* We believe students will be better served by the opportunity to take courses relevant to management and policy in fields other than economics. Students wishing to pursue additional economics courses will be able to do so via another requirement (detailed next).
4. *Change from 6 hours of EMP-related courses as approved by advisor to 6 hours of EMP-related courses selected from a specified list of options.* These options include courses from ECON, MGMT, POLS and SOC, and will serve to increase the breadth of training students receive from social science disciplines. These courses were chosen specifically because they are most relevant in application to EMP.

This is the accompanying list of approved EMP electives to be posted on the department website:

Recommended courses:

ECON 242, 245, 337, 345

MGMT 230, 300

POLS 235, 327, 354

Other courses:

ECON 250, 314

MGMT 388, 423, 424

POLS 220, 281, 333, 336, 351, 383, 387, 389

SOC 387